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General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/52. It discusses recent trends in the further strengthening within the United Nations of the relationship between disarmament and development. In addition, the report contains information received from Governments on the subject.

* A/66/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 65/52 entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", the Assembly stressed the central role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the Organization in this field. In paragraph 2, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.[1]

2. Furthermore, in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries, and requested the Secretary-General to report at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

3. On 31 March 2011, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States seeking their views. At the time of writing, replies have been received from the following States: Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Lebanon, Mexico, Portugal, Qatar, Ukraine and Zambia. This information is contained in section III below.

II. Strengthening further the role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship

4. The last 15 years have seen initiatives, instruments and programmes, both within the United Nations and outside, which have clearly taken into account the linkage between disarmament, arms regulation and development. Examples include action addressing the illicit trade in small arms and its consequences, the destabilization caused by armed violence and poor controls over the trade in other conventional arms and ammunition. Other important development-related initiatives in the field of disarmament include the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

5. Previous reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the relationship between disarmament and development provided a background on the development of discussions and initiatives on this topic from the early cold war era until the twenty-first century.[2] Importantly, the diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources has long been identified as a cause for persistent underdevelopment. The acknowledgment of world leaders in 2005 that "development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing" illustrates that the relationship between disarmament and development remains a highly topical one.[3]

[1] See A/59/119.

[2] A/64/153 and A/65/132.

[3] General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 9.

6. Within the framework of delivering as one, the United Nations, through its existing coordination mechanisms — such as the United Nations Mine Action Team, the Coordinating Action on Small Arms and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration — aims at ensuring that the relationship between disarmament and development is adequately and effectively addressed through the involvement of all relevant actors from within the United Nations system.

7. This report provides information on further developments since the issuance of the last report of the Secretary-General on the subject matter.

8. During the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, which was held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, more than 60 States addressed the issue of armed violence and its negative impact on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. They underscored that violence and crime hamper productivity and economic growth and the ability of Member States to meet their development targets.

9. The Security Council held an open debate on the interdependence of security and development on 11 February 2011. In the presidential statement issued after the debate, the Council noted "that successful implementation of the many tasks that peacekeeping operations could be mandated to undertake in the areas of security sector reform; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; rule of law; and human rights requires an understanding of ... the close interlinkage between security and development".[4] On 19 April 2011, the Council considered the Secretary-General's report on small arms (S/2011/255), which draws ample attention to the interlinkage between armed violence and development.

10. The Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held in New York in May 2011. The significance of the nexus between disarmament and development was particularly discussed during the debate on international assistance and capacity-building, with special emphasis on the need to improve the implementation capacity of States to enable them to effectively trace illegal arms back to their point of diversion, thus contributing to safer and more secure communities. The implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as the International Tracing Instrument, will be further examined at the review conference of the Programme of Action that will be held from 27 August to 7 September 2012.

11. The United Nations is also improving its ability to work in delivering effective policy, programming and advice to its own agencies, funds and programmes working in the field — and to Member States — on curbing the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. A set of International Small Arms Control Standards and international ammunition technical guidelines are currently being developed (the latter in response to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 63/61), which are complementary to the existing Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards and the International Mine Action Standards.

[4] S/PRST/2011/4.

12. Furthermore, within the framework of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, the United Nations organized during the period covered by this report a series of regional seminars: in Guatemala (16-18 November 2010), Nepal (16-18 March 2011) and Nairobi (23-25 February 2011). These seminars aimed to foster discussions and experience-sharing at the regional level, assessed the progress of implementation of armed violence reduction programmes, and identified promising and innovative practices. They were part of the preparations for the second Ministerial Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration that will be held in Geneva on 31 October and 1 November 2011.

13. Preparations for the organization of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty have started and the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee was held in July 2010. Two other such meetings were held in 2011. The negative impact of unregulated arms transfers on security, development and human rights was a recurring point of discussion during the preparatory discussion process. The United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which will be held in July 2012, is mandated to elaborate a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms.

14. The Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which was held in Geneva from 29 November to 3 December 2010, highlighted the progress made from a development perspective in the implementation of this treaty. States Parties underlined the Convention's contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and reiterated their commitment to continue to promote the inclusion of mine action activities, as a priority, in ongoing development programmes at the local, national and international levels. In addition, States agreed to further develop the topic of victim assistance within the broader context of social services, health care, development, human rights and gender equality.

15. At the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in October 2010, States adopted the Vientiane Declaration, in which they highlighted that cluster munitions "constitute a serious threat to peace, human security and development. Cluster munition remnants have severe consequences for affected individuals and their communities, and pose severe impediments to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, poverty eradication and social and economic development".[5] At the opening of the meeting, the United Nations — represented by the Deputy Secretary-General — underlined that after the successful codification of a cluster munitions ban, it was important that action was also taken on two additional security challenges with humanitarian and development implications: firstly, anti-vehicle mines, which continued to cause casualties and posed similar obstacles to recovery and development as cluster munitions; secondly, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, which caused profound suffering to civilians and also hampered development.

16. Member States continued to provide information to the United Nations System for the Standardized Reporting of Military Expenditures. In 2010-2011, for the first time since its inception in 1980, a Group of Governmental Experts was established to consider the operation and further development of this instrument. The report of

[5] CCM/MSP/2010/WP.1, para. 4.

the Group provides recommendations aimed at adapting the reporting template to new security and military realities (see A/66/89).

III. Information received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[29 June 2011]

Despite the profound economic and environmental crisis affecting the world, military spending has not decreased but has instead been increasing every year at an accelerated pace. Over the past 10 years, spending on arms has increased by 49 per cent, reaching the astronomical sum of 1.5 trillion dollars. Just one country is responsible for nearly half of military spending at the global level.

While tens of millions of human beings perish as victims of poverty and preventable, curable diseases, unjustifiable wars continue to be waged, as is the case in Libya today. Such wars are never the solution and always cause thousands of civilian deaths, scandalously referred to as "collateral damage".

The armed forces are major consumers of a broad range of non-renewable resources and reserves, both of energy and of raw materials. It is clear that the major military powers consume the most raw materials for military purposes, even going beyond their consumption of resources in general.

Military and related activities absorb a large proportion of the scientific and technological potential. It is estimated that some 25 per cent of the world's scientists are dedicated to military-related projects. Furthermore, it has been calculated that approximately 40 per cent of total research and development spending since the Second World War has been used for military purposes.

The economic consequences of military expenditures are worse for developing countries than for the most developed countries. It has been established that, for every dollar spent on arms in developing countries, domestic investment decreases by 25 cents. Imports of arms exacerbate the trade deficit of developing countries and account for almost 50 per cent of the trade deficit in some third world countries.

Comparing the amount of resources squandered in the arms race with the amount needed to develop the so-called third world provides the most dramatic evidence of waste.

Since 1960, rich countries have spent at least 15 trillion dollars on the manufacture of weapons (approximately 334 billion dollars annually); however, they have transferred only 2.6 trillion dollars in development assistance to poor countries (just under 58 billion dollars annually). In other words, rich countries have invested at least six times more in manufacturing weapons than they have disbursed in development assistance. At that rate, developing countries would have to wait 260 years (more than two and a half centuries) to receive development assistance equal to the amount squandered on military expenditures by industrialized countries in only 45 years (not even half a century).

The resources currently spent on arms could be used to combat the extreme poverty endured by 1.4 billion people; feed the more than 1 billion hungry people on the planet; prevent the deaths every year of 11 million children from hunger and preventable diseases; or teach 759 million illiterate adults to read and write.

The increase in military expenditures is in itself cause for mistrust and legitimate international concern. We cannot stand idly by while global military spending continues to far exceed the funds allocated to meet the Millennium Development Goals. These issues must be addressed through urgent action.

Cuba reiterates its proposal to create a fund, administered by the United Nations, into which at least half of current military expenditure would be paid in order to meet the economic and social development requirements of poor countries. This initiative, apart from its obvious benefits, could have added value as a confidence-building measure and would be a decisive factor in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Cuba also reiterates its support for the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held in September 1987, which includes an international commitment to allocate a portion of the resources made available through disarmament for purposes of socio-economic development. Cuba also reiterates its support for discussion of this matter in the United Nations General Assembly and for implementation of the recommendations contained in the resolutions of the Assembly.

Cuba is of the view that the deteriorating living conditions in the world caused by global warming and the existence of nuclear weapons constitute the primary challenges to the survival of the human species. The use of only a fraction of the huge global nuclear arsenal — the explosion of 100 warheads — would bring about a nuclear winter in a few hours.

Despite the end of the cold war, 22,600 nuclear weapons remain in existence. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, nearly half of these are ready for immediate use. The mere existence of these weapons and the doctrines that justify their possession and use constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security. That is why nuclear disarmament is and must continue to be the highest disarmament priority.

The Non-Aligned Movement, whose members have always been at the forefront of actions and initiatives to achieve a world free of nuclear arms within a specified time frame, reaffirmed its commitment to nuclear disarmament by approving a declaration on the issue at the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali from 23 to 27 May 2011.

Ecuador

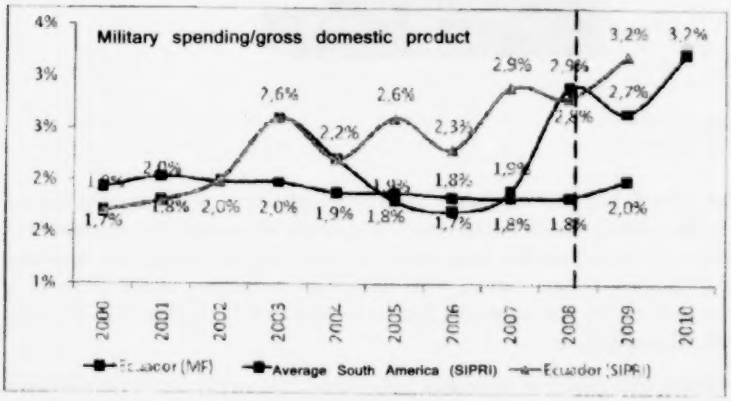
[Original: Spanish]
[17 May 2011]

Assessment by the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES)

The following observations are being issued in response to memorandum No. MRECI-SOIS-2011-0120-O, which requests comments on General Assembly resolution 65/52, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", particularly with regard to measures taken to "devote part of the resources made available to economic and social development", subsequent to a review of that resolution.

International reports on arms spending have concluded that spending has increased globally over the past few years, hampering the disarmament efforts pursued by international agencies. This situation has arisen because greater investment in arms spending has been accompanied by an increase in social problems, creating even more obstacles to the development processes sought by States.

Figure I
Military spending/gross domestic product in Ecuador vs. South America 2000-2010



Source: Military spending for Ecuador — Ministry of Finance (MF); average for South America — Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has published an alarming report indicating that South America experienced the greatest increase in arms spending, which reached $63.3 billion in 2010.

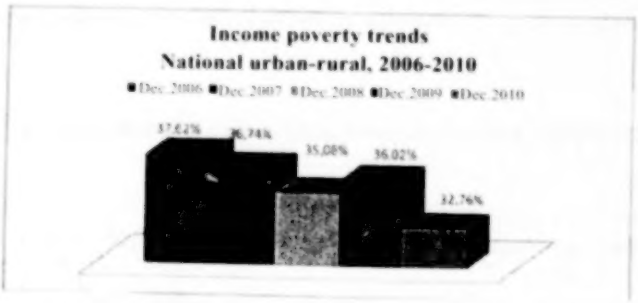
Despite the regional and global situation, Ecuador declared itself a peaceful territory in its 2008 Constitution, which also establishes universal disarmament as a principle of international relations and opposes the development and use of weapons of mass destruction (article 416). This gives an idea of Ecuador's position on and

engagement with the disarmament aims of international agencies, and specifically with the work of the United Nations on the issue.

It should be noted that the country's primary planning tool, the National Plan for Well-being, establishes guidelines that complement the position outlined above. For example, National Goal 5 of this tool concerns "Guaranteeing sovereignty and peace, and advancing strategic participation in the world and Latin American integration". Based on this goal, policies were established aimed at creating a culture of peace in the country and achieving peaceful coexistence domestically and with other countries.

It should be understood that the opposite of insecurity is not security, but rather coexistence and social cohesion in the exercise of rights. Poverty reduction is therefore a key aspect of preventing an increase in social inequality and the purchase of weapons to protect private property.

Figure II
Income poverty trends, 2006-2010

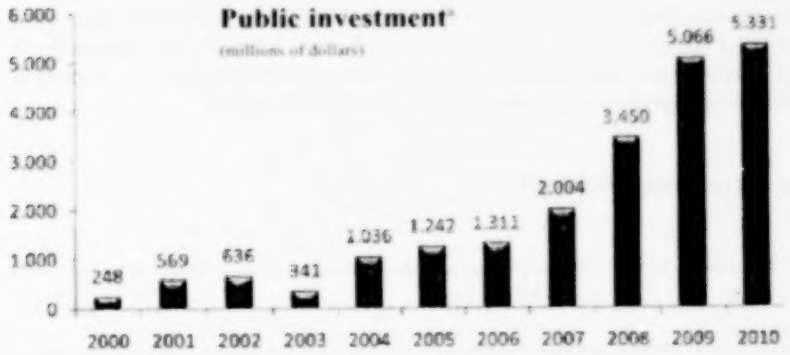


Source: National Police.
Created by: SENPLADES.

In that regard, Ecuador has made significant advances in combating one of the worst ills in the world, which is the result of a range of issues. The income poverty trends, which are based on the parameters of basic unmet needs, are a source of great encouragement to our nation. The five-point reduction in the poverty level motivates us to keep working towards the established goals, in line with the policies set out by the Government.

In addition, the increase in public investment has improved important sectors that languished for years. Education, health and road infrastructure have been restored from their former deplorable state. For the first time in 20 years, the main priority has been social spending rather than reducing external debt.

Figure III
Public investment in Ecuador, 2000-2010 (in millions of dollars)

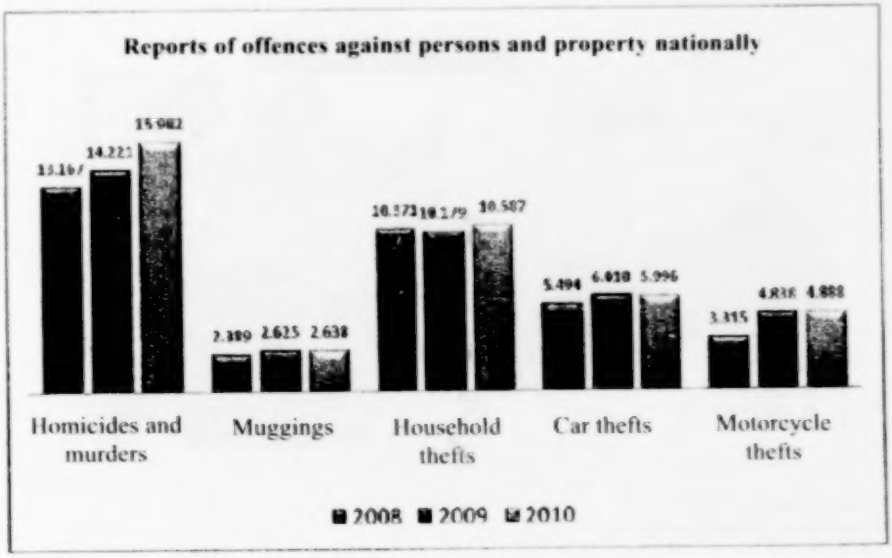


Source: Integrated Financial Management System (e-SIGEF) — Ministry of Finance.
Created by: SENPLADES.
* Does not include transfers from the National Treasury.

Security as a factor in the disarmament of the population

The State should be considered as the entity responsible for regulating public security. As a first step in fulfilment of this role, Ecuador has promoted disarmament of private individuals as an initiative to maintain peaceful public spaces and civic coexistence in general.

Figure IV
Reports of offences against persons and property nationally, 2008, 2009, 2010



Source: National Police.
Created by: SENPLADES.

The figures reveal that reports of violence have increased over the past two years. Developing public policy initiatives that promote new security practices and the mechanisms to implement them has therefore been made a priority.

The primary goal of the new arms control law passed in 2009 is to regulate the issuance of permits to own and carry weapons as a means of progressively disarming citizens and individuals in a timely manner. In that regard, the number of law-enforcement agents was increased, with the following results:

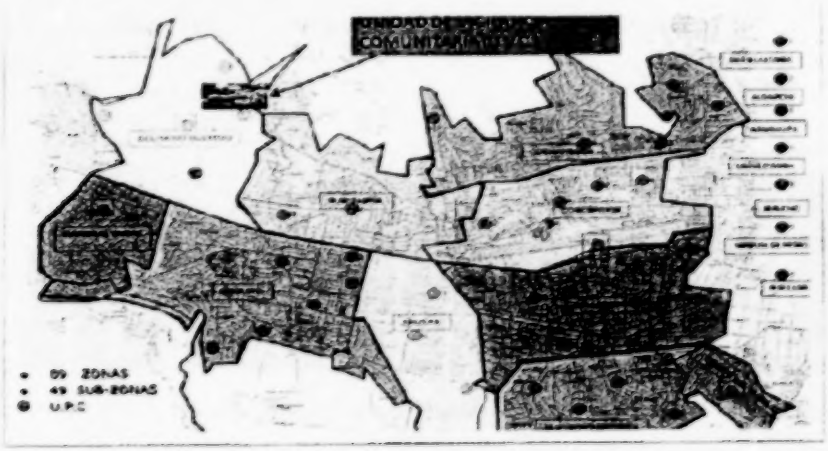
Table
Firearm seizures, 2008, 2009, 2010

Action	*2008*	*2009*	*2010[a]*
Firearms seized	4 038	4 513	5 609
Gangs dispersed	301	416	498

Source: National Police.
Created by: SENPLADES.
[a] September 2010.

Through efforts to restructure and educate the police force and redistribute officers throughout the country, it is intended to transform the underlying thinking about and approach to addressing crime. Under one of the adopted measures, the distribution of officers has been reorganized by district and precinct. The following map (Quito) shows an example of how security problems would be addressed at the neighbourhood level.

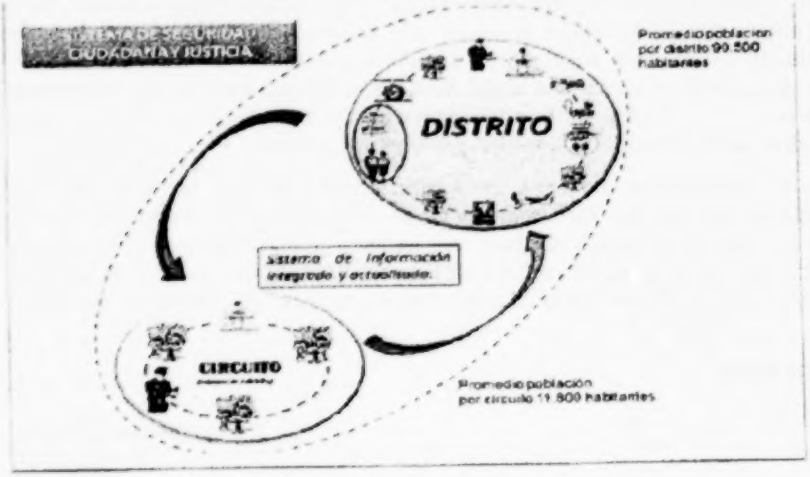
Figure V
Organization of precincts by district in the city of Quito



Source: National Police.
Created by: SENPLADES.

Each district has approximately eight precincts, and each of these has a specified number of police officers charged with maintaining security and public order.

Figure VI
Public security and justice system


SISTEMA DE SEGURIDAD CIUDADANA Y JUSTICIA
Promedio población por distrito 99.500 habitantes
DISTRITO
Sistema de información integrado y actualizado.
CIRCUITO
Promedio población por circuito 19.900 habitantes

Source: National Police.
Created by: SENPLADES.

Institutional changes in the Armed Forces and the Police

The 2008 Constitution laid the foundation for a change in the concept of public security in Ecuador. The legal framework is designed to guide law enforcement officials in discharging their role in this transformation of the country. The most pertinent changes to the Constitution may be found in articles 158 and 159, which state that the Armed Forces and the National Police "are institutions that protect citizens' rights, freedoms and guarantees" and that they "shall be obedient and not deliberative, and shall fulfil their mission strictly subject to civilian power and the Constitution".

The Constitution defines the Armed Forces as defenders of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, emphasizing the new contribution they must make to national development. This change in doctrine seeks to redirect the militaristic and weapons-based approach and strengthen the capacity of a unified and disciplined force that benefits national interests. In that regard, the Constitution defines the role of the National Police as that of internal protection and maintenance of public order, in line with a demilitarized police force that acts as a guarantor of human rights.

Article 168 of the Constitution indicates that members of the Armed Forces and the National Police shall be tried by the ordinary courts. In line with this constitutional provision, all military and police tribunals were transferred to the judiciary, with crimes committed in a military or police context being brought before the criminal tribunals or courts of the justice system.

This subjection of military authority to civil authority aims in part to ensure that democracy is protected by civil authority, and that law enforcement officials help to build an egalitarian and integrated society with strong social cohesion. The very existence of this norm, as well as the efforts to fulfil the Constitutional provisions, are evidence of progress.

In conclusion, if, together with the foregoing, Ecuador's proposal to build a society based on well-being that meets people's basic needs within a framework of solidarity, respect and justice is taken into account, it may be concluded that promoting disarmament should be a critical factor to the development process. Striving to avoid activities that could slow development, such as the unnecessary purchase of arms, is key to the attainment of development goals, which is reason enough to create policies designed to suppress such activities.

The relationship between development and peace in general must be considered, beyond the relationship between disarmament and development. The quest for well-being entails precisely the fostering of a society in which harmony prevails among all members, and which avoids situations that threaten its stability, not only in economic and financial terms, but also in terms of coexistence generally.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[3 May 2011]

Owing to its geographical location and internal social dynamics, the State of Guatemala faces various threats that put its population and democratic governance at risk.

The thriving illegal firearms trade in the region is linked to and, to a large extent, partly driven by the drug trade; while drugs are heading north to Mexico and the United States, arms are heading south.

Violence and crime undoubtedly affect the country's productivity as it relates to economic growth and limit the expansion of its gross domestic product (GDP).

Although the Guatemalan peace agreement was signed 15 years ago following the country's armed conflict, the greater availability of firearms — whether from legitimate sources or from illegal weapons sales — has led to an increase in the levels of armed violence.

Nonetheless, the situation has been changing with the entry into force of the new Arms and Ammunition Act (Decree No. 15-2009). Progress has been made in reducing the proliferation of firearms and ammunition in Guatemala, strengthening controls over the trading and granting of personal licences for the possession and bearing of firearms, and lowering the rates of firearms-related homicide and weapons imports.

According to the General Directorate for Control of Arms and Ammunition, weapons imports into Guatemala fell by 30 per cent from 2008 to 2009, 53 per cent from 2009 to 2010, and 40 per cent in the first four months of 2011 compared with 2010.

Ammunition imports declined by 54 per cent from 2008 to 2009, 2 per cent from 2009 to 2010, and 50 per cent in the first four months of 2011 compared with 2010.

The number of firearms that were in storage at the Directorate General for the Control of Arms and Ammunition and were the subject of judicial proceedings totalled 7,130 in 2009, 6,832 in 2010, and 2,170 in the first four months of 2011.

Poverty and inequality in Guatemala attributable to inherited historical trends pose a challenge for the State. This is a situation that requires prompt attention from the Government, which has made multiple efforts to soften the impact of poverty on the most vulnerable people. It is also undeniable that armed violence impedes development, discourages investment, reduces the ability of health institutions to provide general care, and diminishes the chances of multilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations contributing to development in high-risk areas.

The people most affected continue to be children, youth and women, especially those living in high-density urban areas, areas with a high presence of illegal drug trafficking, and border areas. Experience has shown that violence affects the levels of impunity and fear, making progress in consolidating the rule of law more difficult and slow.

Bearing in mind this reality, Guatemala strongly supports international efforts in favour of general and complete disarmament, the adoption of various incentives and the creation of political and/or binding legal instruments that address this issue and its implementation at the international, regional, subregional and national levels, and reiterates its commitment to the goals and principles thereof.

Guatemala agrees with the point made in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development to the effect that disarmament and development are two of the most important tools for creating conditions of security and well-being. It also agrees that, by promoting economic and social progress and by generating opportunities, development policies and programmes contribute to eradicating poverty and promoting economic growth.

As stated in paragraph 61 of the report, disarmament has a key role in the peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction process. Guatemala has experienced this first-hand, having finalized its National Demining Plan in 2005, which called for the destruction of explosive remnants of war, and having been declared a country free of anti-personnel mines. This activity helped to eliminate the risk represented by the presence of such artefacts for the population in the affected areas, thereby contributing to the safe return and resettlement of persons displaced during the domestic armed conflict.

Guatemala considers that the level of international assistance for programmes designed to prevent and combat violence and promote development should be commensurate with the level of spending by developed countries in the production and trading of armaments. Adequately addressing the problems caused by violence and how to link them to their development agendas poses a major challenge for States.

The current Government has made efforts at the national level to respond to that reality, focusing on education, health and development as important tools for countering conditions that foster violence and the use of weapons and therefore

require that security forces be armed appropriately in order to guarantee peace and national security. It should be borne in mind that allocating more resources to social investment will generate better results in terms of security.

Guatemala is aware that policies and programmes aimed at reducing the availability and use of firearms can also help to curb violent crimes.

It is also important to point out that the issue of firearms in Guatemala and in the rest of Central America transcends regional and national boundaries. It therefore requires the strong support of the international community, which has recognized that strategies for interrupting the south-north flow of drugs must be complemented by a greater effort to limit the flow of illegal weapons in the opposite direction.

In this regard, and given that weapons possession is intricately linked to organized crime, sustained reduction of demand for weapons will depend on progress made in combating organized crime and curtailing the flow of illegal weapons. This must be a joint effort, as unilateral action is now a thing of the past.

Measures adopted and efforts made in the context of disarmament and promotion of social development in Guatemala over the past year and a half

The State of Guatemala has taken action on various fronts, both political and operational, including the recognition of civil society as an indispensable actor in development and implementation of appropriate solutions. The following are some of the most notable actions:

Agreements, commissions, institutional strengthening

The National Agreement for the Advancement of Security and Justice was signed. As part of the agreement, the Commission for the Prevention and Reduction of Armed Violence was created in order to support the formulation and implementation of policies designed to promote disarmament and arms control, and to encourage the adoption of a comprehensive, inclusive approach to the reduction of armed violence and the promotion of development, by advocating for the incorporation of violence-reduction programmes into national development policies.

The National Security Policy, which will soon be approved by the National Security Council, was developed; the Political Reform Commission was established; and local security councils of the National Civil Police (NCP) undertook dissemination and institutional-strengthening activities. The NCP and the General Directorate for Control of Arms and Ammunition are developing the operational plan for the establishment of the NCP weapons register.

The judiciary, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the National Civil Police, the National Institute of Forensic Sciences and the General Directorate for Control of Arms and Ammunition developed an inter-institutional protocol, in which the Teaching Institute for Sustainable Development (IEPADES) — a civil society organization that advocates for the proper handling of firearms that are the subject of judicial proceedings — participated as facilitator. Civil society also provided support for the management, classification and systematization of the NCP ballistic fingerprint register.

Legal instruments

The new Arms and Ammunition Act (Decree No. 15-2009) was approved. The Regulations of the Arms and Ammunition Act, which entered into force with Government Order No. 85-2011 on 7 April 2011, and which confer on the General Directorate for Control of Arms and Ammunition (DIGECAM) the power to issue end-user certificates, marks a significant step forward in enhancing the efficiency of existing control systems.

In the Congress of the Republic, a multisectoral technical group was created to study possible amendments to the Arms and Ammunition Act (Decree No. 15-2009), and Decree No. 52-2010, the law regulating private security services, was approved. The decree sets out tools for improving control over private agencies and the weapons they handle. The Access to Information Act (2010) was passed to improve transparency in State management processes. A protocol was developed in 2010 for the treatment of weapons and their indicators, but it is still subject to approval by the relevant authorities.

Other actions

To promote disarmament, more than 6,500 weapons were destroyed in 2010, as certified by the United Nations through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. With regard to binational programmes for the prevention and control of arms use, Guatemala, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Central American Integration System, promoted the prioritization of the Central American Security Strategy, focusing on the areas of combating crime, prevention and institutional strengthening, with emphasis on illicit weapons trafficking.

Prevention and development actions

Violence prevention and development programmes: The *Escuelas Seguras* (safe schools) conditional transfer programme benefited 904,621 families living in poverty or extreme poverty and 2,463,349 children between 0 and 15 years of age in 2010. The *Escuelas abiertas los fines de semana* (schools open on weekends) programme benefited 250,000 youth; while the *Bolsa Solidaria* programme helped provide 358,000 families with food security.

These activities give priority to specific groups in risky situations and seek to incorporate them into programmes that provide individuals and communities with a non-violent alternative lifestyle, thereby addressing a multidimensional issue from a prevention standpoint and contributing to the enjoyment of basic rights, such as the right to food and the right to education.

The other programmes implemented include *Barrios Seguros* (safe neighbourhoods), *Municipios Seguros* (safe municipalities), *Comisarias Modelo* (model police stations), and binational programmes for the prevention and control of arms use.

Summary of opinions

Violence and crime affect countries' productivity as it relates to economic growth and limit the expansion of their gross domestic product (GDP).

Guatemala strongly supports international efforts in favour of general and complete disarmament, the adoption of various incentives and the creation of political and/or binding legal instruments that address the topic and its implementation at the international, regional, subregional and national levels, and reiterates its commitment to the goals and principles thereof.

Guatemala agrees with the point made in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development to the effect that disarmament and development are two of the most important tools for creating conditions of security and well-being.

Guatemala considers that the level of international assistance for programmes designed to prevent and combat violence and promote development should be commensurate with the level of spending by developed countries in the production and trading of armaments.

The problem of firearms in Guatemala and in the rest of Central America transcends regional and national borders.

Given that weapons possession is intricately linked to organized crime, sustained reduction of demand for weapons will depend on progress made in combating organized crime and curtailing the flow of illegal weapons. This must be an international effort, as unilateral action is now a thing of the past.

Although poverty alone does not give rise to violence, violence clearly thrives in situations of low levels of development and nascent institutions. Consequently, a key element in reducing violence is to strengthen the State's capacity to control the risk associated with the presence of and easy access to firearms.

In order to foster the prevention of armed violence, it is indispensable for all institutions of the State of Guatemala, all States of the region, especially arms-producing States, to participate in the development and execution of prevention and reduction programmes and the accompaniment of civil society in areas within their competence.

Guyana

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana commends the adoption of resolution 65/52 entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development" and is both mindful of, and agrees with, the considerations comprising the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development (see A/59/119).

The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana expresses its commitment to the General Assembly's invitation to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. These concerns underlie much of the policy considerations of Guyana's founding father, His Excellency Dr. Cheddi Jagan's (now deceased) vision for Guyana's fight against poverty, which he put forward during the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen

from 6 to 12 March 1995, in a proposal entitled "A New Global Human Order". This vision has subsequently influenced Guyana's current national development strategy, premised on the Low Carbon Development Strategy and the Poverty Reduction Strategy, implemented during the current Government's administration of Guyana, beginning from 1992 until present.

The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana respectfully submits its general recognition of the synergy between armed conflict and economic diversion for military expenditures, ultimately at the expense of developmental assistance to developing countries. "A New Global Human Order" highlighted the fact that "if only a small percentage of the money spent annually on the arms race was diverted to causes of peace and development, if only a tiny percentage of national budgets in developed countries was diverted towards developmental assistance to developing countries, the world could have been a better place to live". For instance, the United Nations Development Programme had pointed out that if military expenditure in the 1990s was reduced by only 3 per cent per year, it would yield a "peace dividend" of US$ 1 trillion.

Consequently, the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana echoes paragraph 4 of resolution 65/52 insofar as to encourage "the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to make reference to the contribution that disarmament could provide in meeting them when it reviews its progress towards this purpose in 2011, as well as to make greater efforts to integrate disarmament, humanitarian and development activities". To this end, Guyana's Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme I and its successor Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme II (2008-2012) have contributed to the reduction of poverty and greater access and equity in access to services for the poor and vulnerable as well as produced expanded social safety opportunities, and, as a consequence, Guyana is likely to meet four of the eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The policy considerations underlying both of these programmes share many of the concerns of Dr. Jagan's "A New Global Human Order", and specifically recognize that peaceful resolutions rather than armed conflict will result in a general reduction in military expenditures, thereby providing a more readily available and accessible avenue through which to pursue developmental assistance to developing countries, such as Guyana.

As Dr. Jagan noted, "the key contributing factors to our problems, and hence to their solutions, exist largely outside our immediate control. Despite our steadfastness and our political will to stay the course, our endeavours will not be successful unless supported by the international community in a meaningful and practical way". Peaceful resolution acts in furtherance of this notion of international community support, since in contrast to armed conflict, more funds are available to be dedicated to developing countries.

Guyana's report under the universal periodic review mechanism in May 2010 documents Guyana's efforts to reduce poverty, create economic, political and social stability and promote and protect human rights.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[20 May 2011]

Lebanon has consistently supported instruments related to disarmament in general and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in particular, because such weapons constitute a threat to security and peace, and the money that is spent on them could be used in and contribute to the advancement of various spheres of development.

Lebanon is beset by armed violence and is in need of all possible assistance in relieving the suffering that it causes. Notwithstanding the security and military circumstances that are currently affecting the country, and the onerous duties that the army must undertake both along the borders and inside the country with a view to implementing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), all means available are being used to promote economic and social development.

This matter also concerns certain other ministries, whose opinion may be sought.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2011]

Mexico believes that disarmament and development are challenges facing the international community in the areas of development, poverty eradication and the elimination of diseases that afflict humanity.

Mexico recognizes the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the crucial role of security in this connection, and shares the concern that more resources are being devoted to military purposes globally that could be geared towards meeting development needs throughout the world. It therefore supports initiatives promoting the effective fulfilment of disarmament and development commitments.

Mexico is strongly convinced that the effective fulfilment of international commitments arising from existing agreements on disarmament and arms control can help to counter the negative impact on social and economic development.

Mexico notes that the Secretary-General has invited Member States to provide information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries, and would like to provide the following information:

- The Government of Mexico is achieving significant advances in universal access to health services, high-quality education and a substantial reduction in extreme poverty through coordinated action by various social agencies in the three levels of government.

- Mexico's social policy promotes integrated and coordinated action in order to maximize the social impact and enhance the use of resources.
- From 2007 to 2009 — the first three years of the Administration of President Felipe Calderón — programmable expenditure allocated to social development increased 19 per cent in real terms.
- In Mexico, social policy is high on the federal Government's agenda. Both as a priority over other sectors and under the Social Development Act, it is not permitted for the budget earmarked for social development to be lower, in real terms, than in the previous fiscal year. Such expenditure must increase at least at the same rate as the estimated growth in gross domestic product.
- The Mexican Government has a single strategy, known as "Living Better", which encompasses all of the programmes and actions implemented under its social policy. The Living Better strategy has made it possible to generate income opportunities in the country's marginal areas; expand access to education, health care, food and decent housing for low-income populations; and improve basic infrastructure.
- Lines of action under Living Better include: capacity-building for Mexicans; a social protection network that helps Mexicans to cope with various contingencies; the establishment of links between social policy and economic policy with the aim of boosting Mexicans' capacities and skills in order to help them successfully engage in economic development; and environmental development in order to achieve an enhanced environment conducive to full development.
- Expenditure on social development has been rising in Mexico over the last two decades, with real growth of 276 per cent from 1990 to 2007. From 1990 to 1994, social expenditure increased 91 per cent; from 1994 to 1995 it declined by 23 per cent; and from 1996 to 2007 it increased again, rising in nominal terms from 537 billion to 1,136 billion pesos.
- As a percentage of total programmable expenditure, spending on social development increased from 38 per cent in 1990 to 57.2 per cent in 2010.
- In 2010, a total of 1,476,862,200,000 pesos was allocated to social development.
- Of total resources, 33.6 per cent went to education; 24.1 per cent to health care; 22.9 per cent to social security; 11.4 per cent to urban planning, housing and regional development; 5.0 per cent to social assistance; and 3.0 per cent to drinking water and sewer systems.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[24 August 2011]

Between 2007 and 2010, Portugal invested a total sum of €22,435 on anti-personnel mine clearance projects in Angola and other developing countries. Within this context, Portugal also wishes to inform that a reviewed "National Strategy for Security and Development" was adopted in 2009. This strategy focuses

on coherence and efficiency and ensures better coordination of all Portuguese programmes. The strategy also promotes a broader approach and reinforces the priority of human security as a major goal in the Portuguese cooperation policy.

Qatar

[Original: English]
[12 May 2011]

The Government of the State of Qatar is of the view that the State does not possess weapons of mass destruction and that it has acceded to all treaties that ban those weapons. With regard to conventional weapons, the State of Qatar possesses a quantity of such weapons only as necessary to protect its security and sovereignty in view of the surrounding international and regional circumstances. This policy has been reflected in the budget set for weapons, which has been limited to achieving this goal. Therefore, economic and social development plans in the State are moving at an accelerated pace towards the development of our nation and the prosperity of our citizens.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[6 May 2011]

Implementation of a special State programme for the period 2008 to 2017 for disposal of conventional types of ammunition and of a special State programme for the period 2010 to 2014 for disposal of liquid missile propellant components has done much to reduce ammunition and mélange stocks which can no longer be feasibly used or stored.

Dialogue with representatives of the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) on possible international assistance to fund the disposal of ammunition and PFM-1 anti-personnel mines has also had positive outcomes.

Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on disposal of mélange stockpiles, paid for by OSCE donor countries, is ongoing. An international mélange disposal contract signed by the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, OSCE and Russian concerns and paid for by OSCE donor countries is being fulfilled.

Creating conditions for the increased disposal of surplus missiles, ammunition and missile propellant components from arsenals, bases and storage facilities being dismantled during the period 2011-2012 is a priority for the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, as is fulfilment of Ukraine's international obligations to OSCE, NAMSA and the Russian Federation on the disposal of surplus ammunition and mélange.

Zambia

[Original: English]
[21 June 2011]

Introduction

Zambia has continued to support the various existing mechanisms for the coordination of disarmament and development issues such as the Mine Action Team, the Coordinating Action on Small Arms and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration under the United Nations system. These mechanisms aim at ensuring that the relationship between disarmament and development is covered in their respective areas through involvement of all relevant actors from within the United Nations system. Consequently, relevant information is always provided to the Secretary-General by Zambia.

Zambia is aware of the challenges the world is facing in the field of development, poverty eradication and the elimination of the diseases that afflict humanity. In this regard, the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security and the accompanying concern at the ever increasing global military expenditures that could otherwise be spent on development needs cannot be overemphasized. It is clear from this that the United Nations has a central role in the disarmament-development relationship and should therefore continue to coordinate and encourage cooperation among the relevant United Nations departments, agencies and sub-agencies. However, we must bear in mind the fact that it is only when peace is assured and sustained that disarmament would be fully realized and resources made available for development. In this connection, Zambia's position on the relationship between disarmament and development with respect to General Assembly resolution 65/52 is summarized as follows.

Summary of Zambia's position on the relationship between disarmament and development

Strengthening security through confidence-building mechanisms operating at both the bilateral and multilateral levels is an important aspect of the disarmament effort and should be encouraged in order to foster consolidation of partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations. Further, regional and subregional initiatives should focus on a broad range of issues aimed at preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, curbing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, promoting security confidence-building measures and advancing the prospects and success of nuclear-weapon-free zones such as the African Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone established under the Treaty of Pelindaba.

Promote and create conditions conducive to economic, scientific and technological cooperation through the following actions:

(a) Establish favourable conditions for collaboration at both the regional and international levels;

(b) Ensure the prevalence of transparency and accountability in our efforts to contribute to the development of human resources;

(c) Provide training and exchange expert missions and scientific visits;

(d) Domesticate the development of the relevant skills and resources that will assist in the building and improving of national capacities.

Prevent conflict and pursue peacebuilding at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

Education, awareness and research should aim at enhancing the comprehensive understanding of the many facets of the disarmament-development issue.

The multilateral approach should be the international framework for dealing with all aspects related to disarmament, development and security and should be styled on the premise of the Millennium Development Goals. Further, the realization of such an ideal is underpinned by political will, the availability of adequate resources and the continued effective coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations departments, agencies and sub-agencies in the United Nations system.

Strengthening of the high-level steering groups on disarmament and development is imperative in order to encourage relevant departments and agencies to share and learn best practices so as to improve and enhance cooperation, coordination and joint programming.

Conclusion

The mere reduction of military expenditure in itself does not necessarily imply that additional resources will be available for development because relevant political decisions at the national level are needed for this to be possible. Further, some observed increase in military expenditure does not necessarily reflect a rise in the volume of armaments. This is because as technology advances and becomes more complex, more expensive weapons tend to take up a growing share of this military expenditure. It must also be mentioned that the rise in the occurrence of natural and man-made hazard has put pressure on the military as they are increasingly being called upon to assist in reconstruction and recovery efforts, which also creates a demand for increased investment in human capacity and technology.